

1 We claim:

1       1. A computer implemented method for procuring services, comprising:  
2             establishing a private marketplace with access restricted to a predetermined set of  
3                 buyers and a pre-identified set of vendors;  
4             inviting bids on a project from a subset of the vendors;  
5             receiving at least one bid on the project from at least one of the subset of vendors;  
6             accepting one of the bids; and  
7             working on the project with the vendor in a collaborative workspace.

1       2. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the private marketplace is an  
2             online marketplace and establishing the private marketplace further comprises customizing the  
3                 look and feel of the online marketplace.

1       3. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the establishing of the private  
2             marketplace further comprises managing the pre-identified set of vendors.

1       4. The computer implemented method of claim 1, wherein the establishing of the private  
2             marketplace further comprises restricting the access of the users to one or more projects within  
3                 the private marketplace.

1       5. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising:  
2             receiving invoices from the vendors for services provided by the vendors to the  
3                 buyers, the invoices received at a centralized location;  
4             consolidating at the centralized location the invoices received for the predetermined  
5                 set of buyers;  
6             sending a bill from the centralized location to an owner of the private marketplace;  
7             receiving money at the centralized location from the owner of the private  
8                 marketplace; and  
9             distributing the money to the vendors.

1           6. The computer implemented method of claim 5, further comprising obtaining project  
2 approval before one or more stages in the procurement of services.

1           7. The computer implemented method of claim 1, further comprising monitoring the  
2 private marketplace.

1           8. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the private  
2 marketplace further comprises receiving requested reports.

1           9. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the private  
2 marketplace further comprises receiving planning reports.

1           10. The computer implemented method of claim 7, wherein monitoring the private  
2 marketplace further comprises receiving performance measurement reports.

1           11. A computer program product for procuring services, the computer program product  
2 comprising:

3           program code for establishing a private marketplace with access restricted to a  
4 predetermined set of buyers and a pre-identified set of vendors;  
5           program code for inviting bids on a project from a subset of the vendors;  
6           program code for receiving at least one bid on the project from at least one of the  
7           subset of vendors;  
8           program code for accepting one of the bids; and  
9           program code for working on the project with the vendor in a collaborative  
10          workspace.

1           12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the private marketplace is an  
2 online marketplace and the program code for establishing the private marketplace further  
3 comprises program code for customizing the look and feel of the online marketplace.

1           13. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the program code for  
2 establishing of the private marketplace further comprises program code for managing the pre-  
3 identified set of vendors.

1           14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the program code for  
2 establishing of the private marketplace further comprises program code for restricting the access  
3 of the users to one or more projects within the private marketplace.

1           15. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 program code for receiving invoices from the vendors for services provided by the  
3                     vendors to the buyers, the invoices received at a centralized location;  
4                 program code for consolidating at the centralized location the invoices received for  
5                     the predetermined set of buyers;  
6                 program code for sending a bill from the centralized location to an owner of the  
7                     private marketplace;  
8                 program code for receiving money at the centralized location from the owner of the  
9                     private marketplace; and  
10                 program code for distributing the money to the vendors.

1           16. The computer program product of claim 15, further comprising program code for  
2 obtaining project approval before one or more stages in the procurement of services.

1           17. The computer program product of claim 11, further comprising program code for  
2 monitoring the private marketplace.

1           18. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for  
2 monitoring the private marketplace further comprises program code for receiving requested  
3 reports.

1           19. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for  
2 monitoring the private marketplace further comprises program code for receiving planning  
3 reports.

1           20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the program code for  
2 monitoring the private marketplace further comprises program code for receiving performance  
3 measurement reports.

1           21. A system for procuring services using a private marketplace, the system comprising:  
2                 a private marketplace owner;  
3                 at least one buyer, the buyer given access to the private marketplace by the private  
4                     marketplace owner;  
5                 at least one vendor, the vendor bidding on a project posted by a buyer, wherein the  
6                     buyer accepts the bid of the vendor and works on the project with the vendor  
7                     in a collaborative workspace.

1           22. The system of claim 21, wherein the private marketplace is an online marketplace  
2 and wherein the private marketplace owner customizes the look and feel of the online  
3 marketplace.

1           23. The system of claim 21, wherein establishing the private marketplace further  
2 comprises managing the pre-identified set of vendors.

1           24. The system of claim 21, wherein establishing the private marketplace further  
2 comprises restricting the access of the users to one or more projects within the private  
3 marketplace.

1           25. The system of claim 21, further comprising a central server wherein the central  
2 server receives invoices from the vendors for services provided by the vendors to the buyers,  
3 consolidates the invoices received for the buyers, sends a bill to the private marketplace owner,  
4 receives money from the private marketplace owner, and distributes the money to the vendors.

1           26. The system of claim 25, wherein the buyer obtains project approval before one or  
2 more stages in the procurement of services.

1           27. The system of claim 21, wherein the private marketplace owner monitors the private  
2 marketplace.

1           28. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring of the private marketplace further  
2 comprises receiving requested reports.

1           29. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring of the private marketplace further  
2 comprises receiving planning reports.

1           30. The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring of the private marketplace further  
2 comprises receiving performance measurement reports.